

Crime Code Change Clears Senate Panel

The criminal justice reform bill, a 799-page revision of the entire federal criminal code, has cleared a Senate subcommittee.

Marathon Judiciary Committee sessions are expected during December, with floor action unlikely before January. No House hearings are expected before Senate passage.

The bill contains several controversial sections, including curbs on publishing or disclosing government secrets, abolition of the in-

sanity defense in federal criminal trials, expansion of the death penalty, and recognition of a defense based on legal or factual misunderstanding on the part of government officials accused of wrongdoing.

Sens. John L. McClellan (D-Ark.) and Roman L. Hruska (R-Neb.) chief sponsors of the bill, defended it against criticism by press and civil liberties organizations but said the bill is not "sacrosanct" and is subject to amendment.